

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for converting e-mail (electronic mail) data into audio data, comprising:

a communication connector connected to an ~~e-mail~~ e-mail server via a communication line and comprising:

a controller configured to control a conversion of e-mail data received from the server into e-mail message header data, e-mail content data and e-mail attachment-type data, and

an audio data generator configured to convert the e-mail message header data, e-mail content data and e-mail attachment-type data into audio data including corresponding audio header data, audio content data and audio attachment-type identifier data, the audio attachment-type identifier data being an announcement of the existence and type of an attachment to the ~~email~~ e-mail; and

a memory configured to store the e-mail data and the audio data,

wherein the communication connector is ~~directly connected to the server and~~ operates to transmit the audio data to a client upon the client's request, and

wherein the e-mail data further includes gender information and the audio data generator is configured to generate an audio signal in a male voice if the gender information identifies that a sender of the e-mail data is a male sender registered in an e-mail address list, and to generate the audio signal in a female voice if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail data is a female sender registered in the e-mail address list.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an e-mail client program installed system.

3. (Previously Proposed) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a video unit configured to process the e-mail message data; and

a display unit configured to display the e-mail message data processed by the video unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plural attachment types comprise an image-type attachment, a video-type attachment, an audio-type attachment, and an ~~email-type~~e-mail-type attachment.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~email~~e-mail message header information identifies a sender's name, a sending date, and a subject of the e-mail.

6. (Previously Proposed) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the controller is further configured to identify a total number of e-mails received by the apparatus and audio data generator is configured to generate a corresponding audio message to send to the client.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the male voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail, and the female voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for converting e-mail (electronic mail) data into audio data, comprising the steps of:

receiving an e-mail data from an ~~email~~e-mail server, wherein the e-mail data comprises gender information;

storing the ~~received~~ e-mail data received from the ~~email~~e-mail server as e-mail message header data, e-mail content data and e-mail attachment-type data;

receiving a request to retrieve the ~~email~~e-mail data, including verifying a requestor's identification;

converting the e-mail message header data, e-mail content data and e-mail attachment-type data to audio header data, audio content data and audio attachment-type identifier data, the audio attachment-type identifier data being an announcement of the existence and type of an attachment to the ~~email~~e-mail;

saving in a memory the audio header data, audio content data and audio attachment-type identifier data; and

transmitting the audio header data, audio content data and audio attachment-type identifier data to the client as an audio signal,

~~wherein said transmitting is performed bypassing an intermediary between the e-mail server and the client.~~

wherein the transmitting step comprises generating the audio signal in a male voice if the gender information identifies that a sender of the e-mail data is a male sender registered in an e-mail address list, and generating the audio signal in a female voice if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail data is a female sender registered in the e-mail address list.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein in said audio converting and storing steps, identification information of the sender of the e-mail is checked and an audio conversion is implemented based on the checked result.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the identifying step includes a step of judging whether there is an e-mail received after the client's identification has been identified.

12. (Previously Proposed) The method of claim 11, further comprising a step of transmitting a message indicating that the e-mail is not received when the e-mail is not received.

13. (Previously Proposed) The method of claim 9, further comprising a step of referencing the sender of the e-mail in an address list.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said identifying step is implemented using a telephone line or using a direct access to an e-mail service system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the e-mail data includes gender information of a sender of the e-mail, and said audio signal is generated based on the gender of the sender of the e-mail.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said audio signal is generated in a male voice that is not the sender's if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a male, and said audio signal is generated in a female voice that is not the sender's if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a female.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the male voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail, and the female voice is also not of a receiver of the e-mail.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the plural attachment types comprise an image-type attachment, a video-type attachment, an audio-type attachment, and an ~~email-type~~e-mail-type attachment.

19. (Previously Proposed) The method of claim 9, wherein the header information identifies a name of a sender, a sending date, and a subject of the e-mail.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the e-mail message data further identifies a total number of e-mails directed to the client.

21-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) An apparatus for converting e-mail (electronic mail) data into audio data, comprising:

- a communication connector connected to an e-mail sever via a communication line;
- a controller configured to control a conversion of e-mail data received from a server into e-mail message header data, e-mail content data and e-mail attachment-type data;

an audio data generator configured to convert the e-mail message header data, e-mail content data and e-mail attachment-type data into audio data including corresponding audio header data, audio content data and audio attachment-type identifier data, the audio attachment-type identifier data being an announcement of the existence and type of an attachment to the e-mail, wherein the e-mail message header information identifies a sender's name, a sending date, and a subject of the e-mail;

a memory configured to store the e-mail data and the audio data;

a video unit configured to process the e-mail message data; and

a display unit configured to display the e-mail message data processed by the video unit,

wherein the communication connector operates to transmit the audio data to a client upon client's request,

wherein the e-mail data further includes gender information and the audio data generator is configured to generate an audio signal in a male voice if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a male sender registered in an e-mail address list, and to generate the audio signal in a female voice if the gender information identifies that the sender of the e-mail is a female sender registered in the e-mail address list, and

wherein the controller is further configured to identify a total number of e-mails received by the apparatus and the audio data generator is configured to generate a corresponding audio message to send to the client.